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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

9 NOV 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: NASA Space Photography

I appreciate your memorandum of October 16 regarding NASA space photography and certainly agree with the necessity to formalize the review of these activities in terms of their security impact on intelligence programs.

My staff will be pleased to participate as necessary in setting up and operating the review procedures. Mr. Louis F. Mazza will arrange the initial contact between your security staff and representatives of the NRO, in this regard.

Alexander H. Flax

Alexander H. Flax
Director
National Reconnaissance Office

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EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING;
DOD DIR. 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

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IP

12 Nov 65

TO:

ER

ROOM NO.

BUILDING

REMARKS:

Copies have been sent to DD/I,
D/DCI/NIPE, D/Security via DD/S,
C/COMOR, and CIA Director of
Reconnaissance.

FROM:

O/ExDir/HKnoche

ROOM NO.

BUILDING

EXTENSION

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

☆ GPO : 1957—O—439445

(47)

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2013/06/26 : CIA-RDP80R01580R002004220017-6
MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

DCI has not seen.

Suggest copies to Sheldon and DDI, who
started this exercise.



W. Elder

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10 Nov 65

(DATE)

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16 OCT 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT : NASA Space Photography

1. I have noted the recent NRO memorandum on the handling of photography obtained by the Questar camera during the GEMINI V flight.

2. The increasing use of photographic equipment in NASA programs would necessitate consideration of the security of intelligence programs in terms of both equipment and product if such use should result in photography approaching intelligence reconnaissance quality. I believe that policy guidance for equipment is adequately established at this time by the DoD/CIA-NASA agreement of August 1963. However, since I am charged with the statutory responsibility for the protection of intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure, I would prefer to have a more formal procedure for considering the intelligence significance and security of the photographic product obtained from these programs. Therefore, I am asking my intelligence and security principals to examine the existing arrangements regarding this problem, in consultation with the Director, NPIC, Chairman, COMSEC (in his capacity as TALENT Control Officer, CIA), your staff and others, as appropriate, and to report their findings and recommendations to me on procedures for dissemination of the photographic product.

3. I would then review these findings with the USIB, if necessary, and formulate appropriate guidance with their assistance. I invite you to join in this effort so that complete representation can be achieved.

(signed) W. F. Raborn

W. F. RABORN

cc: Mr. Vance
Dr. Seaman

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DDI/CGS/Reconnaissance Group: [redacted] (8 Oct 65) [redacted]

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Distribution:

Copy #1 & 2 - Addressee

- # 3 - Mr. Vance**
- # 4 - Dr. Semmens**
- # 5 - Signer**
- # 6 - ER**
- # 7 - DD/I**
- # 8 - DD/NIPE**
- # 9 - DD/S&T**
- #10 - Director of Security**
- #11 - Director, NPIC**
- #12 - Chairman, COMDE**
- #13 - CGS/Recce**
- #14 - CGS/Recce**
- #15 - CGS**

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CIA-RDP80R01580R002004220017-6 TION TOP AND BOTTOM

UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET	
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		DATE	INITIALS	
1	Executive Director		10/13	LHW	
2					
3	DDCI <i>has noted</i>		10/13	LHW	
4					
5	DCI <i>signed</i>		<i>by DCI</i> 16 OCT 65	<i>m. l.</i>	
6					
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE	
Remarks:					
<p>The attached letter to D/NRO for the DCI's signature was prompted by D/NRO's letter to the DCI on the handling of Gemini V photography. As a result of our experience in this case, we believe it would be prudent to put on the record the principle of an intelligence and security role in release of NASA and DOD space photography.</p> <p>Attached text has been coordinated with DDS&T, Director of Security, Chairman COMOR, and D/NIPE.</p>					
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER					
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.				DATE	
DDI <i>fw</i> 7E32				12 Oct	
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET	

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

3 SEP 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: GEMINI V Photography

As you know, arrangements previously were made between Dr. McMillan and Dr. Seamans to process and review, here in Washington, all film taken from GEMINI V with the Questar camera prior to any public release. This included not only DoD experiments but also NASA film exposed in the same camera.

Dr. Seamans and I, along with representatives from CIA, State Department, the NRO, and NPIC, reviewed the film last Wednesday. There follows a brief summary of my observations:

- a. Although several DoD facilities and systems were photographed (for example: Bergstrom AFB and the aircraft carrier Champlain), the bulk of the astronauts' attention was directed toward cloud patterns and unusual terrain features around the world;
- b. Resolution varied from about 20 to 50' with the black and white film, and from about 40 to 60' with the color film;
- c. Although there probably is no real intelligence value in any of the photography, the fact remains that aircraft can be observed in the Bergstrom AFB photo and the USS Champlain is clearly identifiable as an aircraft carrier.
- d. The ability of man to identify a specific ground target, and point his spacecraft at and track that target, is obvious from the photography.

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DIARY-BA CONTROLLED

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1. ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED;
2. DOD DIR. 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

At the meeting, we agreed to the following:

a. NASA color film taken with the Questar camera was all releasable, subject only to State Department guidance with regard to possible foreign relationship problems. There is no significant intelligence information evident in any of these photographs;

b. All of the DoD film (black and white, plus color through an IR filter) would be classified;

c. The DoD film would be reviewed with the astronauts and appropriate members of the GEMINI team as classified material. This review for the purpose of assisting them in evaluating mission performance will be accomplished this week-end.

d. Since the press was aware of the DoD experiments, some DoD film would probably have to be released as typical of the results obtained.

We have reviewed the DoD film and are taking the following action:

a. Several prints are being delivered to General LeBailly as releasable to the press, if necessary. Specifically, these include photographs of Dallas, the Cape Kennedy NASA industrial area, the moon, Venus, and Alpha Centaur.

b. General LeBailly has been instructed that, if necessary to release these prints, it will be done from Houston and with minimum fanfare. His spokesman will be cautioned that we seek minimum DoD publicity, and that all aspects of DoD Washington interest in this event are classified.

Alexander H. Flax
Acting Director

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MEMORANDUM FOR: *Attentive Director*

*Per your 4 Sept. conversation
with Mr. Clinic, action to be taken
~~transferred to~~ by DD/I.*

cy sent to DD/I 9/7/05

9/4/65
(DATE)

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12 OCT 1965

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Response to Memorandum from Acting Director,
NRO, dated 3 September 1965
Concerning Release of GEMINI-5 Photography

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1. This memorandum contains a recommendation in paragraph 5 concerning the attached memorandum to Director, National Reconnaissance Office.

2. The purpose of this memorandum to the Director, National Reconnaissance Office is to establish better management over the security aspects resulting from the acquisition of photography by NASA flights. DDCI/NIPE, DD/S&T and the Director of Security concur in the memorandum as drafted.

3. Formalizing the procedure for reviewing and determining the security classification of NASA-acquired photography is considered necessary because of your statutory responsibility of protecting intelligence sources and methods. You will recall that a meeting was arranged by Dr. McMillan and Dr. Seamans on 1 September at NPIC to process and review the photography obtained by GEMINI-5. The decisions made at this meeting (i.e., that all the DOD film would be classified but reviewed further for possible release of individual pictures, and that all NASA color photography would be released) were reported to you in a memorandum from Dr. Flax on 3 September. Our representatives at this meeting were in agreement with the decisions made at the meeting but it must be noted that the DOD film was to be reviewed further and that some "would probably have to be released as typical of results obtained." This also posed no objections on our part because of the simplicity of the security problems involved. The decisions on releasing future acquisitions, however, will become more of a security problem since future experiments in the NASA manned programs may well produce photography of sufficient quality to reveal U.S. intelligence capabilities for photo-satellite reconnaissance.

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4. It is for these reasons that we feel a response to Dr. Flax' memorandum is in order and that more formalized control over the use of future photography gained from the NASA programs is necessary and commensurate with your statutory responsibility.

5. It is recommended that you sign the attached memorandum to Dr. Flax.


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RAY S. CLINE

Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachment

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